

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT ON PUBLIC COMMENTS, OCTOBER 1, 2015

Tim Ford, Planner with the City of Titusville, gave a presentation

Smith: You could have a CRA of just Titusville, it would take you longer, because you wouldn't be getting 40 percent from the County; and so, one of the things that I'm thinking, is that being that we've seen the CRA's are a drain on the County finances, and we've also seen that we don't have surpluses in the County; the County could use those 40 percent figures. We can't change the CRA's now, because as I understand they're contracts, so if you have a CRA, you're going to keep your CRA. But, I just want to go on the record as saying that in the future, I think this commission and other ones need to look at CRA's and the effect they have; one, because they just don't seem to go away. It would seem to me, it would behoove future County Commissions if in their wisdom they determine that there has to be or should be a CRA, there's a blighted area that really needs some help, to restrict that to ten years. Most of these projects that I've been looking at have made tremendous progress in the first three to five years, so they could wrap up in ten years; and a sunset would also enable the future Commission an opportunity to say, Okay they've done a great job, they still have more work to do, let's renew it for another ten years; or just let it go away. Right now we have CRA's that have been in effect for 20, 30 years, and I'm not going to give you specifics, but I've seen several cases where they keep using the money for things that aren't, weren't part of the original blight; they just keep putting it other projects, which is commendable, except for the fact that there's no pay back to the County. It would be like if you're a bank, and I have a house that I want to remodel, and you're willing to give me money each year for me to remodel, and I never finish; where's the pay back? You, the bank, aren't going to stand for that; and we're the bank in this particular case, the County is the bank. So, you know, I'm not beating you up, I'm just making statements and what you've done here is commendable, it's terrific; but, I just want to set the record straight, that from my point of view CRA's, they can be out of control.

Mr. Ford responded that many of the later ones do have sunset provisions, and when they are created those limitations can be put in place and negotiated.

Smith: Well, and that's what I'm suggesting sir.

Infantini: I have two questions. Can you tell me which of those projects were completed after 2010?

Mr. Ford responded, off of the top of his head, no.

Infantini: It's just that I thought I had seen those same projects in the original presentation, when we had, when we first got elected we did a whole big CRA workshop, and I thought I remembered, when Courtney Barker was head of the Titusville CRA thing, I thought I remembered most of those items, and I thought I was very impressed by all the things Titusville had done with theirs; but, I was wondering when is the end game? So, may I ask you just one more question? How long do you think that your Titusville CRA should last?

Mr. Ford stated that is not a question for him to answer, that is a policy question...

Inantini: No, I was just asking...I'm asking you the question, not...I understand it's not for you to make the determination, do you think that a CRA should have an end time, or do you think they should go on forever?

Mr. Ford replied that it is up to the community to do that, to set what time limit they need; and typically it's 30 years, and he believes that State Statute, for some of them, allows them to go another 30 years, and then that is it; and then there are others that are later, that are others that are later and only have a 40 year time limit; he added that it is something that can be negotiated between the County and the Cities.

Fisher: Just two things though...

Infantini: Great answer...

Fisher: Thank you sir. Just two things; I think one of the current projects is the downtown welcome center, Mr. Ford, and I assure you...mentioned that, that one's being built now, which...and a lot of times in CRA's you've got to wait for the pot of money to grow before you can do projects; so, sometimes it takes three to four, five years of revenue sources before you can do one thing; it isn't like the money comes right there every year, you know, at a huge amount, some projects exceed...it costs more than your revenue. Marty Adams.

Marty Adams gave a presentation.

Dr. Stephany Eley, Space Coast League of Cities, City of West Melbourne, gave a presentation.

Lisa Frazier, Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA), gave a presentation.

Infantini: Can you go back to the slide on the septic? This is one of the biggest reasons why I'm against CRA's. This is such a positive, feel good thing, and it's great; and I'm glad, in one way, I could argue on both sides on this one, on one way I'm glad you're using funds for this, however, I know of a property owner that has to pay for it out of his own pocket. So, the fact that businesses can't expand and change the way they do business, what they can offer at the certain property; they got that piece of property at a lower price, so now, we're taking general fund dollars, those are my tax dollars, to make those improvements with the septic tank, converting it to the sewer system. All of the profits will go to that property owner; they're not going back to the County. When that person sells their property, all of those profits are going to go back to the property owner. I know when my dad had to convert from the septic system to the sewer system in Miami Dade County, he was given ten years to pay it off, and they converted him; okay, he paid for that, and he reaped the benefits of the profits. In this case, property owners are buying property at a low value, a lower cost, we're converting them over to the sewer system to increase the capacity; Wawa's or whatever it was going to be, some name like that, is going in, in West Melbourne; they bought that property at a lower price, now, they're being converted on a sewer system; now they can sell that property at a higher price. It's not fair, some people are getting the benefit of the CRA, and this isn't directed at you, I thank you for showing this; actually Lisa and I already had this discussion, I'm very happy she has the position, if the position is to be had, I'm so happy that

Lisa has it; however, everybody knows I'm opposed to CRA's, so, that's a separate discussion. Thank you.

Barfield: Well, there's one other aspect of this, and I'm thinking about the Cone Road. We have on North, North of Merritt Island airport, there's an area with industry and it, it really is very limited what can be done to be redeveloped, or whatever, because it's all on septic tank. Well, part of the major work that's going to be done on Cone Road is to put drainage out to a regional lake, a regional discharge, and also put sewer in. So, all at one time, you're leveraging money, other different parts of money, and MIRA would pay for the sewer. Well, what that does is now these companies who what to expand, who can't do anything because they have septic tanks; now they can expand, they would be limited to what they can do, and once that happens they expand, more business grows, and it brings in more business; and that's the impact here, it's on small businesses; this is what CRA's do, is they help small businesses, which run this Country; are small businesses. So, I mean, I see where the advantages are.

Ms. Frazier responded.

Infantini: No, but if it's a benefit, and it's a good plan, why not offer a grant program to covert everybody in Brevard County who is on septic; if this is good for the County and good for our Lagoon, let's put that as one of our County priorities, and we'll say, we want to clean up the Lagoon, convert everybody; we're going to use grant money, all the money that's going to CRA's, we're going to use it change over from septic to sewer, go team.

Smith: I like that you want to clean up the Indian River Lagoon, but it's not part of your CRA, and that's another subject, I won't even go there. What did your original CRA, what was the goal, when you apply for a CRA, and of course you weren't there, but, I know the answer, but I want to ask you; What was the original CRA area that was blighted, that needed to be redeveloped?

Ms. Frazier responded.

Smith: Okay, well that's the key; it was extended. When, and that's my point, that was done within ten years; okay, so, and the reason I'm going to go where I'm going now is because I've had a number of people from the MIRA come to my office, and the bottom line is, well, if MIRA goes away that tax money has to go back to the County; so we can't use it for our little area anymore; bingo, it's supposed to go to the County; at some point in time, it's got to go the County, because it's the County's money, it's the purpose. I'm not arguing that CRA's don't have a purpose, I understand the concept. I'm just saying that if you, we, in the future restrict it to ten years; you say it can't be done in ten, this is a perfect example that it was; but if there's another area that you say needs to be redeveloped, come up with another plan for a second ten years, that's my point; and that's, and again, we can't just shut you guys down, you have a contract; but, my point is, when these things come to an end, they need to end; and if you have more blighted areas, you have two years left to go; some of these folks won't be here, but I will be, and I can tell you that's it's going to end in two years. If you have more blighted areas that need to be redeveloped, hey, show it to us and we'll consider it, and we'll have another CRA; but it will be restricted to ten years if I

have anything to do with it. Don't get me wrong, I'm not anti-CRA, I'm not anti-redevelopment, I'm anti-irresponsible continuation of add in, the plan never goes away; we can always find more areas to put money, we can; when does the County get its money back? And, I've heard all the stories, and I understand the added sales tax and all of that, and that's great, but at what point in time is the CRA going to live up to what it's designed to do; and that's, redevelop an area that's blighted and then go away, and again like I said at the beginning, you can't because you're MIRA, but these Cities, they can do these CRA's on their own; they can develop their own CRA, they're just going to have to take longer to do it, because they're going use their 60 percent, and that's going to become 100 percent. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Ms. Frazier responded.

Smith: Okay, well, again like I said, the money stays where you guys want to make it go; and we don't get paid back, that's the bottom line. The blighted area that you originally applied for has been redeveloped, and you've taken the money and moved it elsewhere; and the folks from MIRA that were in my office said, again I'm going to repeat it, and this'll be the last time I say it, and I'll let you sit down, and I'm not going to beat this to death anymore; but, we can't let you close down MIRA, because then we have to compete for the dollars that if we just keep it, we can just keep spending it as wish; well, that's not the way CRA's are designed to work, but that's one of the downfalls of a CRA. Thank you.

Courtney Barker, City of Satellite Beach, gave a presentation.

Smith: I have a question. Yes Ms. Barker, you, and everybody else that's come up here has suggested that we, meaning me, is questioning benefits and successes; have I said that at all? I want to be clear, because I don't question the successes and the benefits. I've said I understand the concept. What I also understand, and I think people are missing, is that the CRA's, there is no oversight by, well, and particularly Satellite Beach, and let's not even go there; but, you guys want to pare down to get out of your CRA, is that not correct? And why would that be?

Ms. Barker responded.

Smith: And you guys are doing it, and you should be commended for that; but, would you also say that a CRA can be restrictive, because you could be spending your money that, your revenues that are coming in, you could be spending them on other areas, and the CRA restricts you from doing that?; so, it behooves you, in certain cases, to let that CRA go away.

Ms. Barker responded.

Smith: That's my point, thank you. Congratulations.

Barfield: We have to do a plan, as a CRA, we have to do the plan, the plan is approved, and you work to the plan, when the plan is complete you're done; is that correct?

Ms. Barker replied, yes.

Smith: And that's my point. MIRA completed their initial plan a long time ago and they're still using the money.

Barfield: The point is this, you don't know how much money is going to come in because of that difference; so, you have to pool it until you can do certain things; it doesn't always come in like that.

Ms. Barker commented.

Infantini: I have two points; one, you made a very interesting comment in that you said your CRA wasn't really needed anymore, and your general fund was needed, okay; my general fund is needed...and by eliminating your CRA, that'll increase your general fund; by eliminating all of your CRA's, that'll increase my general fund; if my general fund goes up I don't have to increase property taxes, it's as simple as that. And, the other comment that I have to say is, when we moved here downtown Melbourne was not the place that it is now; Main Street went in, they were the original facility, the original bar that went in, they fought tooth and nail to get in; they got in, and then Meg's came in, and now it's a non-stop train; and that's what really rejuvenated downtown Melbourne, it wasn't the CRA. The CRA put in pretty pavers, and the CRA did put up the cool looking signs, but it wasn't the CRA that changed it, it was the businesses that came; and that was Main Street and Meg's. I know because I've been there that long.

Ms. Barker commented.

Smith: Who said that? Who said that we want to take CRA's away?

Infantini: That was me.

Smith: I missed that part; you're the bad guy then, because I didn't say that.

Fisher: One of the things that I think, I haven't heard any of ya'll say yet, and I think it's, and Mayor McCormack you can start making your way up, is that people that live in these cities, they pay County taxes; and, you know, I live in the City of Titusville and I pay City of Titusville taxes; but, I also pay for City of Titusville trash, I pay for City of Titusville Police, I pay for City of Titusville Public Utility tax, there's a whole (unclear) of things that I pay as a city resident; but, on my tax bill it says Brevard County, so I got a portion of my taxes going to the County; and I can argue with you, I'm a County Commissioner, if I can argue what service I get from the County, but, I'm, you know, the normal Joe would say that; but, you know, I use County Parks and I use those types of things, but let's be fair...yeah I use County roads and all that stuff, but, I use City roads too, but, and my point being is, in Merritt Island, that is all unincorporated, they don't have a city that they're collecting taxes on. So, the revenue, if you took away possibly some of the MIRA dollars and all that, they would just be taking more of a general fund revenue, because they're unincorporated, they don't have a city helping them on a lot of things. Just a little thought there, okay.

Infantini: Well, also, Palm Shores doesn't pay any property taxes either. So, all of theirs is 100 percent general funded; but, let me point out to...

Fisher: What do you mean, they don't pay property taxes?

Infantini: ...you don't pay City property taxes.

McCormack: No, but I'd like to make my presentation if I'm next.

Infantini: I was just making a comment on to Robin's...is that everybody's City property tax that pays a City property tax rate, their tax rate would be lower if they didn't have a CRA, because some of your City tax...

Fisher: That's not true.

Infantini: Oh yes it is.

Fisher: That's not true.

Infantini: Oh it absolutely is.

McCormack: Mr. Chairman, if I may please?

Fisher: Yes Ms. McCormack, I'm sorry.

Carol McCormack, Mayor of Palm Shores, gave a presentation.

Smith: And, I can tell you, I live right next to the Town of Palm Shores, and everything that she's says is true. The place looks terrific compared to what it did 12-14 years ago.

Infantini: For the record, the gentleman did not attack your integrity, and so, I take your...for that. It was not directed at you.

Ms. McCormack replied.

Smith: Just for the record, I'm sure it wasn't directed at you; and there have been CRA's that haven't done real well in Florida and in other States, and there are some CRA people that have gone to jail, and there's cities and counties currently closing down their CRA's because they aren't doing what they're supposed to do.

Ms. McCormack replied.

Fisher: Mr. Morgan, City Manager, West Melbourne. How are you sir?

Morgan: Very well, thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman, members. I'm here to talk about one of your newer CRA's in Brevard County, and this is the only one in the County that includes both incorporated area and unincorporated areas in the same CRA, so when people talked about partnerships with the County, this is a true partnership with the County. What was our purpose? It's a great question that's been asked, is what we're trying to do, and one of our primary purposes of both the Commission and our City Council in establishing the CRA and the Trust Fund for the joint district in 2013, was to enhance the U.S. 192 and I-95 entry into West Melbourne, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne, and beach side; and a great

deal of this territory is in the unincorporated Brevard County area. So, that's our primary purpose. The first improvement had no CRA funding, we did a \$795,000 landscaping, landscape lighting, and fountain improvement, that we as a City developed at the interchange. We used a combination of State DOT grant funds and our own City general funds to construct these improvements; even though three of these four interchanges are in the unincorporated areas, so because of the partnership, we felt like we can vent our local money that benefits three quarters to the unincorporated area. We did get our first check from the County, and in January 2014 we got \$21,194; that wasn't enough to get us started, so the City loaned the Agency \$185,000 initial working capital, we're doing this at ten years at no interest, we served the Agency City staff at no cost to the Agency; that's part of what we negotiated with the County that there wouldn't be siphoning off of CRA money for other non-CRA plan purposes; so that by agreement with the County in our founding documents will always be at no cost. We did get a second check in December 2014, and so in the two years we have the County contribution of \$80,327; so if you can remember that number a couple of slides later. This year we do have a project that does have some CRA funding, the total project budget is \$1.14 million, and it's again, a combination funding state grant, city general, and this time we do have CRA funding; and this is for decorative street lighting for the first mile of the area that welcomes you to West Melbourne, Melbourne airport, Melbourne, and beach side. The net after grant CRA portion is \$546,730, and that's the budget basis, we'll know when we actually go out to bid, it's under engineering now. So, 48 percent of the project total is CRA funding. In order, obviously with \$80,000 we can't do a \$546,000 project, so, the City has agreed to make an additional interest free loan to the CRA in order to fund the CRA's share; only in the project area, only in the plan. So, in terms of leverage, as we start just the third year of our operations today, we've committed a two major entry improvement project that was part of our very purpose, totaling \$1.93 million. The County's aggregate contribution, to date, is \$80,327, so you're leverage at this point in 24 times. Much of the benefit of these two projects is in unincorporated area. So, just wanted to let you know where we were with one of your newer ones, and the benefit to the unincorporated property owners.

Smith: Mr. Morgan, the street lights showed, is that from I-95 going east on U.S. 192?

Morgan: Yes, it starts just west of I-95 at the interchange ramps, just west of the ramps, and goes a mile east. So, that was sort of where our project budget, we had to cut it off somewhere.

Smith: Well, I want to commend you, because all of the work that's been done so far, and I don't know what else you have planned, but it's made a big improvement. I was in business in West Melbourne for 27 years, and I can see the improvement.

Morgan: Thank you.

Fisher: Thank you Mr. Morgan. John Titkanich.

John Titkanich, City Manager of Cocoa, commented on CRA's.

Infantini: Number one, you made the most compelling argument for CRA's; so, there, first, you've done the absolute best job on your argument for CRA's, that doesn't mean I'm in favor of all of them. The gentleman that have done the presentations they're volunteers; they're not paid, you're paid and I'm paid, and they did as much research as possible; they've come to my office, they've been to other offices; and so, considering that it's a free job, I just wanted to give them a plug because they're working for free.

Mr. Titkanich responded.

Infantini: I think the things that they were talking about is like, you said your financial statements are audited, well so are Satellite Beach's; and I think it actually took, I'm not positive on this, I think it actually took a resident to expose the fact that they were paying personal city bills out of their CRA. Okay, so, being audited that will help, but it only goes so far; they don't detect all mistakes, so you could be doing yours perfectly fine. Some of the slush things they were talking about was not necessarily yours. I think when I highlighted and exposed the \$5,000 palm trees that went on, on 520, I think that was one of the things that, you know that garnered a lot of attention, really; I've got a lot of palm trees on my property I'll sell you for like a dollar.

Mr. Titkanich responded.

Infantini: I get it, but I did want to compliment you; because you did a very good job on explaining why they add so much value; and I think that there should be an end date, not necessary on the one on Diamond square, but for some of them I think they've already met their useful lives; and they may not have been 25 years, but I think they've already served their purpose. But thank you for speaking to us today, I appreciate it.

Smith: Thank you for your presentation you did a great job. You mentioned that if you have the maintenance, if the city square or city area hasn't been maintained....

Mr. Titkanich commented.

Smith: Okay well, you made a good point, and I think it goes to my point, and let me explain. Maintenance, if you have an area that becomes a slum, it doesn't happen overnight; if you have an area that has become blighted, it doesn't happen overnight. Well how did you get there? Because people didn't do what they were supposed to do and maintain it. So, where I'm coming from is, we're in the same position now with our roads and our infrastructure, we haven't been maintaining it for a lot of different reasons; many of them, the economy had a lot to do with it, we didn't have any control over that. So, where's our CRA? Where do we, collectively, all you folks in this County, where...

Mr. Titkanich commented.

Smith: Okay, so, how do we finance these roads then?

Mr. Titkanich responded.

Smith: Well that's where we are, because we have about 450 miles of roads, we have 1100 County roads; not State roads, not City roads, 1100 miles of roads that we're responsible for; and I've said this a zillion times, people probably get tired of hearing me say it, but, if you get out on I-95 here and you drive 1100 miles north, you're going to wind up somewhere in Connecticut. So, we have a lot of roads to take care of, and 450 of those are in need of repaving right now; and just like what you're saying, if we don't repave them, and the deterioration gets down to the base we have to rebuild them, and it costs six to seven times more to rebuild them than it does to repave them; that's the predicament we're in. Maintenance is the key. If you allow your area to get blighted, it's not your fault, it's not Mayor McCormack's fault, but somebody's dropped the ball along the way and now you have to fix it. We're in the same position with roads.

Mr. Titkanich responded.

Smith: I agree.

Fisher: Doug Dombroski, how are you sir?

Dombroski: Good evening Commissioners, thanks for the opportunity to address you tonight. I want to thank the Budget Review Committee for all they're work, we realize they're trying to be good stewards of tax dollars; we're trying to be good stewards of tax dollars as well. I'm only going to cut, through the points; I think a lot of them have already been made. The first one is, on this uniform reporting, as you know we all follow Statute and Special District reporting, and the majority of the information is available, and I would think most of my colleague's as well, on our City website; all that information, if somebody's looking for the annual reports, budgets, the audited CAFR, and all of that information does come to the County as well. One thing, we talk about looking at the expenses of the CRA's, I think maybe they could do a little further evaluation of what the CRA's leverage in this County, we leverage both public monies through grants, and we leverage private investment; private investment is the obvious one, but we leverage a heck of a lot of grant money that goes into our CRA's. In terms of economic development, we do a really good job in this County of helping the larger corporations. The CRA's, that's, at least, my tool with the City to help some of the small businesses in our City; with grants for facade improvements, we mentioned Meg's, they went through our facade improvement program at Downtown Melbourne. So, we do help these businesses, and that's really why they're there and why we've been so successful in Downtown Melbourne. With regards to attracting talent, employees in Brevard County, in can tell you that we go to our CRA's when new companies come into town, and they want to tour our areas, we take them right into the gems of Brevard County, we take them into our CRA's. At the last economic development commission meeting they talked about this issue of attracting employment and technical people into our County. We can tell you that the national trend for millennial's is they want to move back into our urban quarters, and that's where a lot of our CRA's are doing our work, they want cultural amenities, they want entertainment, they want shopping, they want walkable communities, and that's what we're trying to achieve. One of the last points, as far as infrastructure, we're your partners with infrastructure needs too, we do improvements, capacity improvements, to roadways; those aren't always our roadways, those are County and State roadways a lot of time as well. As far as

sunsets are concerned, we do have sunset dates on all our CRA's, and the two that we have agreements with, with the County, one ends in eight years and the other has ten more years. The Eu Gallie CRA that has ten more years, I can tell you we've not achieved the majority of our plan. What happened, we had a period really of ten years now where we haven't been able to do a lot of activity, because revenues declined. We've had a ten year period where we've not even really touched our plan. So, as John stated, we may be coming back to you at another time to ask you for a little extension on those time periods. And that's all I have to say, thanks.

Fisher: Thank you sir. Any questions for Doug? Okay, thanks sir. Melissa, you're the very last one. How are you?

Melissa Byron, CRA Director for the City of Cocoa Beach, commented on CRA's.

Smith: I would just like to commend all the people, the CRA people, that have been here tonight; they're very passionate, they're very caring about their areas, the people in their areas should be very proud that they have leaders that care that much about their properties. I just want to set the record straight that I am not anti-CRA, I am anti-perpetual CRA; CRA's that just don't go away, CRA's where they last 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, and then they come back and they ask for an extension. I haven't been here when a CRA was established, I haven't been here when a CRA was extended, I'm just saying that the criteria that I will use in the future, when those events happen, is I want to know exactly what the CRA, what the blighted area is, what's the goal of that CRA? It just can't be pie in the sky, that we want to make everything better, that would be like a candidate saying, I want to make a difference; it's not good enough, I want to know exactly what your purpose is, and I want to know, get an idea, what you think the time frame is going to be on that purpose; and we can work together on some numbers, but I just don't see the point of a 30 or a 40 or a perpetual CRA, it's detrimental to the County, and I just don't think it's a good idea. But again, I'm not anti-concept, I like the concept, I understand the concept, but I also understand that we need some restrictions. But I'm just one Commissioner and that's my point of view.

Inantini: My problem is, I've been just one Commissioner also. So, when all those other votes took place, regardless of the need, and one of the CRA's that got expanded, it expanded on County owned property that it said was blighted. How does the County have County owned property that's blighted? I think there's a problem there. So, we shouldn't be having County owned property that blighted, let's go mow our lawn. But, no, that just went into the CRA, and that's part of the expansion. So, it's just going to take more than two votes to make some changes. But, thank you all the speakers who came out, there have been great improvements; just fundamentally I disagree with how they're funded and how we get those improvements. That's all, it's a philosophical difference. And I hope everybody has a great evening, and I hope no Commissioners have Board Reports.

Fisher: I'll make a comment that, as you talk about kicking the can down the road, we can determine whether a CRA's have value, whether parks have values, whether libraries have values. There's a lot of things, everything we do has got a value. This, Dr. Slotkin is probably, I think, one of the most credible people we have

representing us, from a standpoint of FIT professor, Economist, I think he came and told us what our problem was; that you can't, as a County that has, Mr. Whitten told you this morning, 25,000 more people in it, and he's, 13 years later, paying less taxes than he paid before; and then at the same time you want to compete around your surrounding Counties, and you don't want to do what your surrounding Counties do, and charge the taxes that you could be charging, on gas tax or on sales tax or on public service tax, those are three things that every surrounding County has a higher rate than we have on, and is charging for it, and we have ignored it. We have ignored it because a selected few citizens keep crying, they don't want to pay more taxes, well Mr. Slotkin is a great example of, he isn't paying more taxes; but we've got 25 more thousand people in this County and we've got a, our costs are continuing to climb at a two or three percent rate every year, but everybody's going down. So, at some point in time we're going to have to face the music, and we're going to have to make some tough decisions, you know, some people ran on...I'm going to come into office and I'm never going to raise taxes. Well, that's not a good thing to run on, because let me tell you something, everything around us is going up every day; and if you're going to solve your road needs and your infrastructure needs and fix your roofs and fix your buildings and all that, then you can't do it in your Charter the way it's capped, you know, at a very, very limited CPI or one percent, or whatever it is; and there isn't one place that you can prove to me in the budget that you can't show that this Commissioner hasn't made the necessary cuts, and have made cuts every year they've been in office; and revenue is down, people are down, and we've done all the hard stuff. It's time to realize you need more, it's real simple, that you need more revenue; and if we talk about running this thing like a business, if we went into our office every day and asked our staff, how do you cut, what and we cut today, what can we cut today, what can we cut today, and you never talk about how you're going to grow the business, you're going to be out of business; and that's our problem.

Infantini: About the extra 25,000 people, our population has not doubled in the last 20 years. But, I'll tell you what, our budget has, and the tax revenue has more than doubled in the last 20 years, I believe that those would be the numbers; and I'm sure somebody will come and check, I don't have the exact date and number, but I'm sure that will be fact checked before the next meeting, which I will also fact check it, because if I'd known we were going to keep talking about these extra 25,000 people, are you kidding me? We had somebody, Mark Shansus, came can showed a whole analysis, showing you the change in population from 2001 till 2009 when everybody raise the property tax rates for the first time. And the change in population was incredibly disproportionate to the property revenue increase. So, if you want to talk about, we overspent, we've been over spending, and we've completely changed the priority and the direction of what government was intended to do, and because of that, now we have no money; and we're crying, saying we have no money...it's a spending problem.

Smith: Well, as a businessman, I get a little frustrated sitting up here because, as a businessman if I'm sitting in my place of business and I need a roof, I just start putting an extra ten bucks on every invoice, and let the people pay for the roof. But that's my decision, it's my business and I run the risk of, driving customers away. So that's an equation that I have to make, but quite frankly, if my average ticket is a thousand to 1,200 bucks, ten bucks isn't going to dissuade anybody

from getting their car painted. So, if we're faced with that same situation here, what do we do? What is the solution? What is the answer? I think we've talked to a bunch of people that think that we have some money that we can find here, we have a nugget here, that we can find a nugget there, I'd be willing to look at that. The other options would be a gas tax, and I mentioned that one time on a radio show, that if the average person in this County drive 12,000 miles a year, which is considered average, and you get 20 miles to the gallon, you're going to use 600 gallons of gas a year. If you raise six cents on every gallon, that's 36 bucks out of your pocket, it's not a tremendous amount of money, but it would yield about \$7. something million a year in extra income. I had people reach out to me after I made that statement and they said, yeah but think of the ripple effect. Well, I acknowledge that there would be a ripple effect, but if you have \$50 million in road repairs, I suggest that that's a bigger ripple effect, and if we can use that \$7 million and make a big dent in the roads that we need to repair, and at the same time...you know, we've got three CRA's that I understand have expired back in 2012, and we're still trying to figure out how to get those expired, Scott Knox and his people are working on that; but that would yield a million bucks. So, if we can find some of these little nuggets here and there, and if we can perhaps consider a six cent per gallon gas tax, and would again, I'm big on sunseting because that's the way government grows; we take the easy way out and we put six cent tax on something or a six dollar tax or \$600 tax, and then we forget about it, and it just continues to grow government. So I would suggest that if we were to go down that road, we would put a ten year sunset, or some kind of sunset on that; and that would give us \$7.5 million, the CRA's that are expiring would give us another \$1 million, that'd be \$8.5 million; and if we can find a couple \$3 million in the budget somewhere, \$3 million out of a billion dollar budget, we should be able to find that. I think that might be the formula to get us started on this road of recovery to fix our roads.

Barfield: Commissioner Smith, one thing you said about the additional, adding six cents, that's assuming that a gallon of gas, we add the six cents, it adds six cents to it, that's not the case, we probably wouldn't even be...you probably wouldn't even notice a difference...

Smith: Well, I agree, I've done those studies too, and the fact is, you're absolutely correct. In other Counties where they've raised six or nine or ten cents, it typically gets balanced out. I asked Mike Shaw also, he's a big petroleum distributor in Brevard County, and he said the same thing; where areas add those taxes, they just get absorbed and you have a competitive market, after a month you wouldn't even know you had a change.

Infantini: Miami and Orlando, here we come. We're going to join you right up there with the highest taxes, out of the other taxes that are buried in that think nobody's watching, they're watching, and here we come.